

[*Translation*][*English*]**Letters from Members of Parliament**

4213. SHRI VISHWANATH SHASTRI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of letters from the Members of Parliament received by his Ministry from July, 1991 to October, 1991;

(b) the number, out of them, acknowledged and the number, out of them not acknowledged; and

(c) the reasons for not acknowledging the letters of the Members of Parliament so far?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (c). According to information available from the Departments of Women & Child Development and Youth Affairs & Sports and 16 Divisions/Units of the Department of Education, 430 letters were received. Out of them 403 were acknowledged and the remaining were under process for acknowledgement or final reply.

The information for Department of Culture and the remaining Divisions/Units of the Department of Education is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Zoological Gardens

4214. SHRI G. MADEGOWDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of zoological gardens in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether there is any proposal to close down some of them; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) The number of Zoological Gardens/Parks in the country, State-wise is given in the Statement below.

(b) and (c). In the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 (as amended in 1991) a provision has been made for constituting a Central Zoo Authority. Alongwith several other functions, the authority is required to specify the minimum standards for up-keep of animals in the Zoos. Such Zoos which do not fulfil these standards can be derecognised. No Zoo that has been derecognised can operate, 6 months after such derecognition.

The provisions of the Act in this regard have so far not been promulgated.

STATEMENT

<i>Names of the States U/Ts</i>		<i>Number of Zoos</i>
1		2
STATES		
1.	ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS	01
2.	ANDHRA PRADESH	03